Medical Student Research Conference Awards
September 15, 2023

Mentor Awards
Summer Research Fellowship Outstanding Mentor in Basic Science Research
   Kelly Messingham, MD - Dermatology
   Nominated by Rachel Heinrich, M2

Summer Research Fellowship Outstanding Mentor in Clinical Research
   Ingrid Lizarraga, MBBS, FACS – Surgery-Surgical Oncology and Endocrine Surgery
   Nominated by Alexis Mata, M2

Summer Research Fellowship Outstanding Mentor in Translational Research
   David Kaczka, MD, PhD – Anesthesia, Radiology and Biomedical Engineering
   Nominated by Jian Gao, M2

Student Awards
François M. Abboud Prize for Best Platform Presentation (U of I Foundation Award)
   Isaac Slagel, M2
   Title: “Secondary Undertriage in a Rural Trauma System: Revisiting Twice-Transferred Patients to a Level 1 Trauma Center”
   Mentor: Colette Galet, Surgery

Donald D. Heistad Prize for Best Poster Presentation (U of I Foundation Award)
   Sam Hatfield, M2G
   Title: “Foamated Hydrogels act Synergistically with Immune Therapy as a Local Niche for Peritumoral Dendritic Cells”
   Mentor: James Byrne, Radiation Oncology

Borts Award (U of I Foundation Award)
   Sydney Rand, M3
   Title: “The Value of Inpatient Dermatology Consultations: Improving Patient Outcomes Through Expert Management”
   Mentor: Vincent Liu, Dermatology

Edward Heath Award (U of I Foundation Award)
   Rachel Heinrich, M2
   Title: “The Impact of Systemic Immunosuppression on Cutaneous Wound Healing”
   Mentor: Kelly Messingham, Dermatology

Melvin Marcus Clinical Research Award (U of I Foundation Award)
   Austin Halupnik, M2
   Title: “Retrospective Review of Swallowing Outcomes for Oropharynx and Larynx Patients after Chemoradiation”
   Mentor: Carryn Anderson, Radiation Oncology

Excellence in Global Health Programs Research Award
   Maiti Peters, M2
   Title: “Knowledge, attitudes, and practices regarding malaria in women of the Orang Rimba”
   Mentor: Elissa Faro, Internal Medicine
Excellence in Anatomy and Cell Biology Research
Jared Hill, M1  POSTER
**Title:** “RalGPS2 Activates RalA for Primary Ciliogenesis in Epithelial Cells”
**Mentor:** Charles Yeaman, Anatomy & Cell Biology

Margaret V. Lunsford Award for Research in Anesthesia
Stephanie Gibbons, M2  POSTER
**Title:** “Disinfecting Luer-lock Syringe Tips of ST-5 S. aureus for Anesthesia Intravenous Access”
**Mentor:** Randy Loftus, Anesthesia

Excellence in Anesthesia Research
Jian Gao, M2  POSTER
**Title:** “Assessing the Mechanical Properties of Acutely Injured Lungs: A Comparative Study of Traditional and Novel Ventilation Techniques Utilizing Computed Tomographic (CT) Imaging”
**Mentor:** David Kaczka, Anesthesia

Arthur A. Spector Award in Basic Biomedical Research
Ethan Angle, M2  POSTER
**Title:** “Challenges in Applying Drug Docking Software to Computational Models of Whole Cells”
**Mentor:** Adrian Elcock, Biochemistry

Nicholas P. Rossi Award for Cardiothoracic Surgery Research
Syim Salahuddin, M2  ORAL
**Title:** “Loss of Muscarinic Receptors Innervation Increases Cell Proliferation in Acute Airway Injury.”
**Mentor:** Kalpaj Parekh, Cardiothoracic Surgery

Excellence in Dermatology Research
Will Moody, M2  ORAL
**Title:** “Development and Assessment of Systematic Educational Intervention to Improve Knowledge of Disease and Quality of Life by Cutaneous Lymphoma Patients”
**Mentor:** Vincent Liu, Dermatology

Excellence in Emergency Medicine Research
Klaudia Golebiewski, M2  ORAL
**Title:** “Fever as a protective factor for development of lung injury and kidney injury in patients with sepsis”
**Mentor:** Nicholas Mohr, Emergency Medicine

Excellence in Family Medicine Research
Abbie Lund, M2  ORAL
**Title:** “Race and Rurality as Risk Factors for Preterm Birth”
**Mentor:** Mark Santillan, Barcey Levy, David Bedell, Obstetrics & Gynecology

John Stokes Award for Research in Internal Medicine
Kathy Nguyen, M2G  POSTER
**Title:** “Triggering Receptor Expressed on Myeloid Cells-1 (TREM-1) Restricts Allergic Airway Inflammation by Promoting Eosinophil Apoptosis”
**Mentor:** Julia Klesney-Tait, Internal Medicine
Excellence in Internal Medicine Research

Katie Choate, M2  POSTER

Title: “Significance of alkaline phosphatase elevations in alcoholic hepatitis”
Mentor: Kyle Brown, Internal Medicine

Excellence in Internal Medicine Research

Jason Hristopoulos, M1G  POSTER

Title: “Assessing the effects of CDK4/6 and MEK1/2 inhibition in Undifferentiated Pleomorphic Sarcoma”
Mentor: Rebecca Dodd, Internal Medicine

Excellence in Basic Neuroscience Research

Richie Zhang, M2  POSTER

Title: “A neural pathway for auditory stress”
Mentor: Joel Geerling, Neurology

Excellence in Clinical Neuroscience Research

AJ Chowdhury, M4  ORAL

Title: “Surgical management of symptomatic vertebral hemangiomas: a single institution experience and literature review”
Mentor: Patrick Hitchon, Neurosurgery

Excellence in Translational Neuroscience Research

Arshaq Saleem, M2  POSTER

Title: “Radiomic Characterization of Brain Aneurysms”
Mentor: Edgar Samaniego, Neurology

Excellence in Neuroscience and Pharmacology Research

Victor Kilonzo, M2G  POSTER

Title: “Investigating learning-induced expression of Nr4A2 in the ventral tegmental area and dorsal hippocampus”
Mentor: Ted Abel, Pharmacology

Excellence in Clinical Research in Obstetrics & Gynecology

Abby Davison, M2  ORAL

Title: “Indications for umbilical cord drug testing and associations of positive test results with PHQ-9 scores”
Mentor: Abbey Hardy-Fairbanks, Obstetrics & Gynecology

Excellence in Obstetrics & Gynecology Research

Katie Weston, M2  POSTER

Title: “Comparison of Surgical Success Between Novel Prolapse Phenotypes”
Mentor: Joseph Kowalski, Obstetrics & Gynecology

Thomas A. Weingeist Award in Ophthalmology

Peter Sanchez, M4  ORAL

Title: “Resident Exposure to Oculofacial Diagnoses On Call at an Academic Level I Trauma Center”
Mentor: Erin Shriver, Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences
William E. Scott Research Award in Ophthalmology

Kaitlyn Grimes, M1  POSTER
Title: “Risk of vision threatening complications with sports in Juvenile X-linked Retinoschisis”
Mentor: Arlene Drack, Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences

Hansjoerg E. Kolder Award for Ophthalmology Research

Thomas Martinez, M2  POSTER
Title: “Prognostic Factors for Long Term Outcomes in Neovascular Age-Related Macular Degeneration”
Mentor: Elliott Sohn, Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences

Ignacio V. Ponseti Prize in Orthopaedic Research

Gretchen Jones, M2  POSTER
Title: “A Retrospective Review of Hormonal Contraceptive Use in Young Women Undergoing ACL Surgery”
Mentor: Kyle Duchman, Orthopaedics and Rehabilitation

Research Excellence in Orthopaedics

Matt Van Engen, M4  ORAL
Title: “DAIR for Periprosthetic Joint Infection in Primary versus Revision Knee Arthroplasty – A Comparison in Survival Rate”
Mentor: Nicolas Noiseux, Orthopaedics and Rehabilitation

Excellence in Otolaryngology Research

Eric Vallin, M2  POSTER
Title: “Similarities of FOXP2 Expression in the Brainstem of Rodents, Rhesus Monkeys, and Humans”
Mentor: Matthew Hoffman, Otolaryngology

Richard G. Lynch Award for Excellence in Pathology Research

Andreas Kantartzis, M2G  ORAL
Title: “ELISpot Optimization for Sepsis Immunophenotyping”
Mentor: Vladimir Badovinac, Pathology

Richard G. Lynch Award for Excellence in Pathology Research

Haley Steffen, M4  POSTER
Title: “BMI at delivery and associated maternal and neonatal outcomes”
Mentor: Brooks Jackson, Pathology

Excellence in Pediatric Basic Science Research

David Chang, M1G  POSTER
Title: “Gene Transfer Efficiency in Models of Increased Secreted Airway Mucins”
Mentor: Patrick Sinn, Pediatrics

Excellence in Pediatric Clinical Research

Daniel Moe, M2  POSTER
Title: “Associations Between Vitamin D and Pediatric Celiac Disease Presentation”
Mentor: Riad Rahhal, Pediatrics
George Winokur Research Award in Psychiatry

**Lucy Olson, M2**  POSTER

*Title:* “Exploring iron as a biomarker of neurodegeneration in Huntington’s Disease: A longitudinal study”  
*Mentor:* Peg Nopoulos, Psychiatry

Bob Robinson Research Award in Psychiatry

**Noah Gritters, M2**  ORAL

*Title:* “Associations between NIH Toolbox Emotional Battery measures and previous suicide attempt in bipolar disorder type I”  
*Mentor:* Vincent A. Magnotta, Radiology

Lauretta Bender Research Award in Psychiatry

**Vaughan Schwob, M2**  POSTER

*Title:* “Predictors of later diagnosis in autistic females”  
*Mentor:* Jacob Michaelson, Psychiatry

Jason Martin Medical Student Research Award in Radiology

**Emily Fuller, M4**  POSTER

*Title:* “Predictors of Tissue Infarction from Distal Emboli after Mechanical Thrombectomy”  
*Mentor:* Colin Derdeyn, Radiology

Larry W. Oberley Award in Radiation Oncology

**Ikenna Nwosu, M2**  POSTER

*Title:* “Intravesical Device for Non-Muscle Invasive Bladder Cancer”  
*Mentor:* James Byrne, Radiation Oncology

Kimberly Ephgrave Medical Student Award for Research in Surgery

**Braden Rolig, M3**  ORAL

*Title:* “Lymphopenia in Burn Patients Predicts Discharge Disposition”  
*Mentor:* Patrick McGonagill, Surgery

Excellence in Urology Research

**Jackson Dunning, M2**  ORAL

*Title:* “Determining Best Treatments for Pediatric Bladder and Bowel Dysfunction”  
*Mentor:* Douglas Storm, Urology